

Jan Mierzejewski
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11/7/82

Dear Jan,

Temporarily at least I've no affidavits before me. Since July those I've prepared are at least as long as three books.

As I told you months ago I would, I've read the copies you sent with interest. While there is nothing sensational in them, they do have importances. One is showing that the Commission and its members knew very well that they had to make investigations they didn't make and had to ask questions they did not ask. Some of it is valuable because it reflects the insanity of the political preconceptions of the Ford people, including him. You are right in thinking that some of the withheld information pertains to the campaign against Norman Redlich as a "red." Ford tried to get him fired for that reason and as part of an extreme right-wing campaign. I have such records from other sources. Some should be in the Ford library. And that is the subject of the 5/19/64 executive session. The reasons advanced for withholding it were, on the end, all withdrawn except the privacy claim. It was claimed, and on this claim the government prevailed, that to disclose the transcript would violate Redlich's right to privacy. I believe the real reason is to protect Ford from his own stupidities and excesses.

Also, I found the Ruby notes interesting because I do not recall any disclosed record which reflects the allegation that Harry Olsen and the "gal" suggested to Ruby that Oswald should be killed. If you ever see any more on this, it would be of interest.

I made a note for a reason I now do not remember to ask you, if you go back, to be alert to any notes on the "Henry Wade" session. I remember now: there is no transcript of it. So any notes could be valuable. That session was about 1/23 or 24 and had to do with reports that Oswald had been an informant.

On the other transcripts, unless there are notes, I have them all.

Maybe you do wish you could be more "professional," but the pros are not about to dig for what can be embarrassing. Only the critics do this.

The last pages of the 1/21/74 transcript were disclosed years before the date marked on them there. I forced their disclosure in litigation not later than early 1981 if not earlier.

The Lane-Markham transcript you didn't get copied was published by the WC.

What the Ford staff knew about Styles (or the WC's) is that he was ghosting a book for Ford, I'd guess.

While I do not know why the page of the Truly transcript is withheld, it is most likely because of possibly defamatory reference to TSED employees. One was not all there and at least one had a drug record. Or it could be something else.

If the Portrait of the Assassin file holds classified WC records, that would be interesting. They did use and corrupt the 1/22 transcript. You said Box 2 has WC records in it.

The references to defectors do not include Nosenko. He is the subject of the 6/23 transcript. The earlier one mentions two others, both well known. But the record you did get is interesting and I have sent a copy to someone who is writing a book and may use it.

On 8/27 you referred to the withheld Truly page again, suggesting it had to do with an emotionally-disturbed TSED employee. That is Jack Daugherty, one of the

legitimate privacy withholdings. Daugherty did testify, his testimony was helpful to Oswald and uncongenial to the WC, so they ignored it.

If you fired a Carcano, you are braver than I! I've never fired mine. Others have in my presence at a local range. I do not trust the weapon at all!

Thanks for your inquiries about my health. I guess I'm doing as well as I can expect, and I suspect better than the FBI would like because in one case, as a result of the evidence I produced with affidavits, they have to go back and search again for withheld JFK assassination records. They can, and probably will, stall that almost indefinitely.

Again my thanks. I wanted to be able to read all the records at one time and write you about them then, thus the delay - until I had time. As part of the overall picture, these are very worthwhile and I'd be surprised if what you call a pro would have risked his career to dig them up and circulate them. Or even understand some.

I hope that you've been able to hold onto your job and that you and your family are well, will have a good holiday season and a fine year ahead.

Best wishes,

7-7-82

Dear Harold,

At last I get a chance to write. Sorry it took a week but I just went back to work today and figured I'd wait til I could Xerox what I had before I wrote.

Went to Ford library July 1st. Here are most of what I got, about the only thing I didn't copy were pages of the Secret Service report-if you want those let me know and I'll send them. There were no markings on those pages, except the one page I've enclosed.

Exec. Session of 5-19-64 remains classified. The folder labeled for it was empty, and I asked a staffer about it. He checked and told me it was still withheld, although it is at the library. He said it was probably withheld because of an off color joke or something-wonder if he really expected me to believe that. He asked me how I heard of ~~it~~ it after I told him I had heard that it had been declassified. I told him that I had read it in one of the books but couldn't remember which one or the author. He suggested I write to Johnson at the Archives-maybe I will just to let them know others are interested too.

The 10 pages of Exec. Sess. of 1-21-64 are there (the ones that you mentioned had been declassified) as is the whole transcript. There were over 90 pages and I didn't have time to go through it all, but saw no markings on them. The pages appear to be mimeographed-printing appears to be the distinctive blue/purple color of mimeos. I did blow one part-there was a raggedy cover sheet which I didn't look at. I didn't realize it til almost home. I wanted to go back yesterday, but it was so hot I couldn't get interested in any thing. I'm sorry I missed it, but I want to go back next week or the following. Our hours at work have been cut to 5 days now so I have a little more time. I also found a route that cuts 5 miles off the trip each way, so that helps. I wish I could be more professional in researching the assassination. When I get there, there is so much to go through and the time goes so quickly. I usually knock off at 4pm so they can copy my stuff before 5pm closing. I sometimes have something copied, then when I get home wonder why I wanted it.

The ch. 7 draft is in handwriting but I don't know whose. The top secret proceedings are from 6-4-64, and since Ford is talking about leaks I thought you may be interested, although you may already have it. There is an attached handwritten note to Ford along with the letter from Besterman of State. Some of these copies are very poor, but were that way in the file copies.

There is no index of individual documents, just a listing of general topics arranged by date of the documents.

I have noticed that there seemed to be a fair amount of doubt about Redlich on the Commission staff, as the unsigned note about Mr. "R" shows. There were other pieces about it, like newspaper articles denouncing his background etc. Maybe the transcript of 5-19-64 dealt with Redlich and maybe they discussed firing him?

It seems I no sooner get rolling in the files then it's time to quit. My next time out I will copy the cover sheet of the 1-21-64 session and spend a couple hours in the files, then go next door to the Bently library and look at the Stiles files.

~~xxxx~~ hope these are of some use to you anyway and hope I can do better in the next couple weeks. This typewriter is working terribly tonight.

I also included a few papers from my first trip in Sept. '81 - papers on Mark Lane etc.

One last thing - the 10 pages of Exec, Session 1-21-64 were marked by library as ~~xxxxxx~~ being cleared for public on 9-1-81. Hope all is well with you and will send copies of my next trip which will be in the next 1-2 weeks. Best wishes in all and keep up the good work,

Sincerely,

Jan Mierzejewski

Jan Mierzejewski

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PS - Just discovered I don't have big enough envelope so will have to mail tomorrow. *Jm*

7-25-82

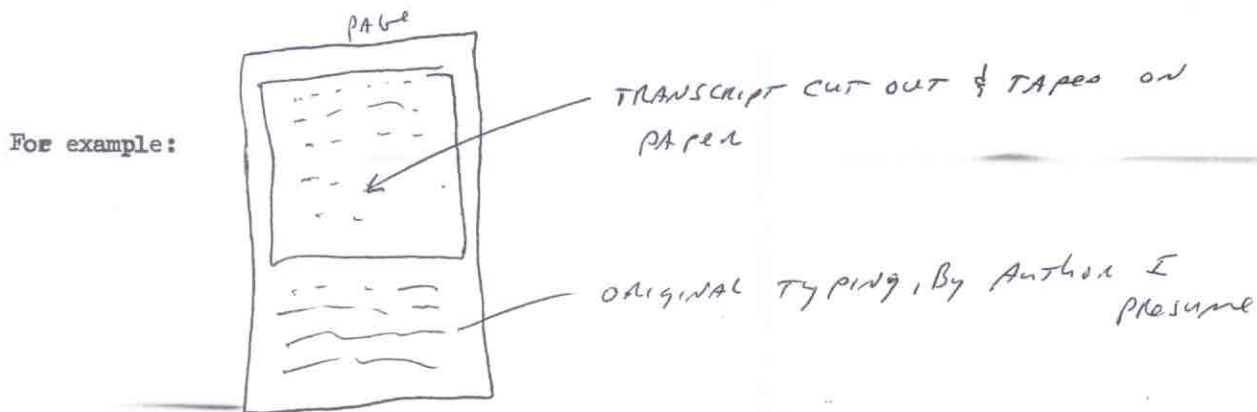
Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I made it out to the Ford library again Friday. Here are some copies of the stuff I got. Some things, like the transcript of the Mark Lane-Helen Markham phone conversation I didn't make copies of, but if you want them I will copy them also. I enclosed the list of papers I had copies made of so you can see if there is anything on it you might be able to use.

The cover sheet for the 1-21-64 Exec. Session is here. The blank piece at the left side is a piece of white paper that had been taped on. There is nothing underneath it (I peeked). There are a couple of references to Stiles in the handwritten papers—one saying that the staff knew about Stiles. Knew what? Also a reference to Nosenko there, something the WC never mentioned in their work to the public. I believe most of the informal papers were done by Frank X. Fallon, who I guess was an aide to Ford. I wonder if Ford read much of the info in his files. I'm getting a feeling he was over his head or had his staff do most of the work for him.

I found that there is still a page of Roy Truly's testimony that is withheld. The classification indicates it is withheld ~~xxx~~ as a condition of the donor. I wonder what it was and why Ford wants it withheld. I spoke with the head librarian, he said I'd have to wait til the collection has been open for 2 years before I can appeal the classification. There is a file on Norman Redlich, but all it contains is a copy of a 1953 magazine with an article he co-authored, titled, I believe "Is Silence Guilt?". The withdrawal sheet in the file indicated that a couple of security clearances were classified—maybe these are related some way with the Exec. Session of 5-19-64? I sent a paper in the last group a couple of weeks ago that asked what to do about "Mr. R". Did you get those papers? Did they help any? I get a little down sometime trying to do something and not knowing if it's any good. I know you want material that relates to F's contact with FBI and Exec. Sessions. Will still look for same. Oh—the sheets on Redlich indicated the material was kept back because of "national security".

Went to the Bentley Library next door to GRF library to look at Stiles' files. Didn't have much time. There are 2 boxes—one deals with drafts of "Portrait of the Assassin" chapter by chapter. That's the one I skimmed through lightly. Box #2 has Warren Comm. material and I will check that next time. Interesting thing about the chapter drafts—many pages were made up by cutting out half pages of the mimeoed transcript of testimony that are stamped "TOP Secret" in Ford's files.



Please excuse my typing errors. I'm pretty beat tonight.

I was particularly interested in the references to Nosenko-both in the handwritten notes and in the typed note, I wonder how they looked upon his case and if they thought the public would ever hear of the Russian defector, and if it was known, how they would justify to the public the fact that he was not interviewed by the Commission?

I am quite curious why Ford wants that page of Truly's testimony sat on? Maybe Truly insulted him? The librarian said cases like that classification are usually for personal reasons, but the crime that was being investigated would not warrant keeping something like that hidden.

It seems there was something else I wanted to mention but can't think of it right now. I think I'll knock off so these papers can be mailed and when I think of the missing idea I'll write again.

I sincerely hope these papers are doing some good. Hope this finds all well with you.
Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

* the 10 pages of EXEC. Sess.
1-21-64 that were released
Last year refer to Defectan.
could they mean NOSENKO?

Jan A. Mierzejewski
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8/17/82

Dear Jan,

Sorry not to have been able to write sooner and to be in a rush now. I've been tied up on FOIA affidavits, have more to do, but I've taken today off to answer letters up to three weeks old.

I got what you sent but I've not been able to read it. I will, and I thank you for it.

On M. Monroe, I doubt there is any pertinence.

On Redlich, Ford is a political nut. He thinks Democrats he doesn't know are reds if they are at all liberal, as Redlich was. He tried to get Redlich fired and failed, but he did have investigations made, and if disclosed they can violate Redlich's privacy rights.

It will be some time before I can write more because I have to see the FOIA suits through and as I think I told you, I have to spend mornings walking for my bad leg. I can do about 1/6 mile then I have to sit and rest, after which I repeat it for three or more hours, plus travel time to the mall where I can sit if I must and when, must because sometimes I can't make the 1/6 miles.

Thanks and I'll write after I read what you sent.

Best wishes,

8-4-82

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Here are a couple of news clippings that may be of some interest. Not that MM was in a plot, but maybe someone was eager enough to keep the anti-Castro plot secret enough to kill America's top movie star.

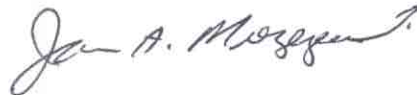
The page of Truly's testimony that is still withheld is listed as page 3850, dated 3-24-64, under classification 'C' - "closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donors deed of gift". Maybe Truly spoke of other rifles in the TSBD, or something about LHO selling the rifle?

Also closed are 34 pages of US Civil Service Report of National Agency Check (2-3-64), and 19 pages of Report of Investigation Norman Redlich (March 64) also from USCS. Both lists of papers withheld were in the Redlich file in the Ford Library. They must have really been leery of Redlich!

In the State Dept. folder was a withdrawal list for 11 pages of Letter from Richard Frank (State) to Rankin W/attachments-Comm. document 1378(a) (b) (c) (d) dated 8-4-64 (look at today's date!) and classified A-closed by executive order 11652 governing access to National Security Information.

I hope these items are helping you, Mr. Weisberg. Are you planning to publish your latest research soon? There are still a lot of people who would like to know what happened, and count on researchers like yourself to keep the investigation alive. I do what I can, and often feel alone in my interest, but the more I study it the less I can let it go by. It must be kept alive for the sake of future generations. Hope this finds all well with you and send my continued best wishes.


Sincerely,



Jan A. Mierzejewski

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8-27-82

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Got your letter Saturday but I was down with bronchitis, finally getting good enough to get around now. I'm sorry to hear about your bad leg. I guess exercising helps - it's recommended a lot. My mother gets arthritis once in a while and walking seems to help sometimes, but not always.

Hope the papers I sent few weeks ago were useful. I hoped to get out to the Ford Library soon, but my days off for the next few weeks are Sat/Sun, and the Library is closed then. Maybe in about 3 weeks I can make it.

In my last letter I mentioned 1 page of Truly's testimony being classified. I read it in Vol. 3 (Truly's testimony) a section where he was describing another Depository employee (I can't remember the name right now) who seemed to be emotionally disturbed. One portion where he is describing this man is marked (deleted). This may be the classified page. But the very fact Truly labels the man as emotionally having problem makes one wonder if the man was scrutinized at all. Oswald wasn't insane and this man may have been more matured to do something irrational.

12

I took a 1939 Carcano to a rifle range last week - fired 40 rounds. It's a 7.35 Cal instead of 6.5. There is a substantial kick when fired, and there is a slight amount of smoke when fired. My rounds all hit in a pattern ~~to~~ about 7-8" above the * bullseye. I wear glasses so my vision's not that good, but I fired at 25 yd. range. and one thing that seems to have been overlooked is the effect of the blast on the shooter's hearing! My ears rang for a full day. Anyone firing a Carcano would be bound some level of hearing impairment, which Oswald didn't seem to show. If he fired a rifle in an enclosed space as claimed, he wouldn't be hearing too well. I didn't use ear plugs (my mistake) and I know there would've been an effect on his hearing.

Sory I couldn't type this, couldn't get access to a typewriter. Hope the finds all well with you & look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Jan

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* I'm not a marksman, though I've shot 22's with fair accuracy. I'm at least as good as W.D. was. In